

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

SAJ-01 IGA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 /080 W

----- 129026

R 211106Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2623

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 1269

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, LA

SUBJ: LAO SPOKESMAN DISCUSS

CABINET MEETING

1. AT WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 20, LAO GOVERNMENT (PGNU) SPOKESMAN OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG STATED THAT CABINET MET FEBRUARY 19 AND DISCUSSED ONLY ONE ISSUE OF SIGNIFICANCE, NORTH VIETNAMESE RICE AND CEMENT NOW BEING DELIVERED TO PAKSANE. CABINET AUTHORIZED SALE OF THESE COMMODITIES TO THE PUBLIC AT OFFICIAL PRICES.

2. FEOF: ASKED WHETHER ANY DONOR COUNTRIES INTENDED TO WITHDRAW FROM FEOF, OUDAY STATED THAT, WHILE MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAD NOT REPORTED ON SUBJECT, THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT ANY DONORS INTEND TO QUIT FEOF.

3. BAN HAI BRIDGE: QUERIED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT NOROY VIETNAMESE WILL CONSTRUCT SUSPENSION BRIDGE AT BAN HAI, ON ROUTE 13 ROAD BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND PAKSANE, OUDAY STATED THAT SECSTATE FOR ECONOMY/PLAN DR. SOMPHOU INFORMED
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CABINET THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE MATERIALS NECESSARY TO

BUILD SUCH A BRIDGE. OUDAY SAID PGNU WILL THEREFORE FORMALLY REQUEST DIRECT NORTH VIETNAMESE AID FOR THIS PROJECT.

4. PRC OIL FOR LAOS: OUDAY NOTED THAT TRANSPORTATION COSTS OF PRC OIL IN TRANSIT THROUGH DRV TO LAOS WILL TRIPLE IN COST IF IT MUST BE PUT IN BARRELS (DUE TO A SHORTAGE OF STORAGE CAPACITY AND TANK TRUCKS IN NVN). OUDAY SAID PGNU IS STUDYING THIS PROBLEM AND MAY TRY TO MAKE TRADE-OFF WITH SHELL OIL COMPANY BY TRANSFERRING CHINESE OIL TO SHELL/HONG KONG IN RETURN FOR COMPARABLE AMOUNT OF OIL FROM SHELL STOCKS IN LAOS.

5. CAMBODIAN NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENTIANE DENIED: LOCAL JOURNALIST ASKED ABOUT RUMORS THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO CAMBODIA SIDES HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING SECRETLY HERE. OUDAY SAID HE HAD HEARD OF NO SUCH NEGOTIATIONS BUT REITERATED PGNU WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY.

6. ALLEGED SVN BOMBING RAIDS: ASKED WHETHER PGNU IS INVESTIGATING ALLEGED SOUTH VIETNAMESE BOMBING RAIDS IN ATTOPEU PROVINCE RECENTLY, OUDAY SAID THIS ISSUE WAS NOT DISCUSSED BY CABINET BUT THAOMJOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT IS LOOKING INTO IT. WHITEHOUSE

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